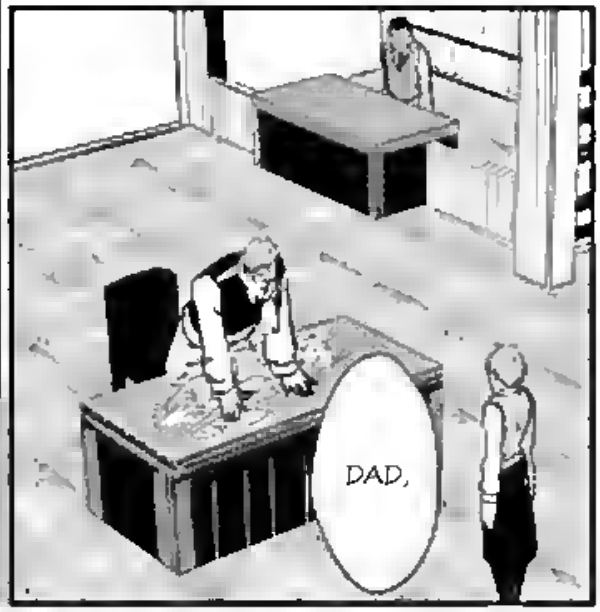
白の皇国物語 第三十六回
原作：白沢戊亥 漫画：木二まー沖
DAMN IT!
OUR COMPANY IS FINISHED NOW!
THE LIZ SLAAVIA COMPANY, A LARGE IMPERIAL FIRM THAT'S CLOSE TO THE EASTERN BORDER WITH THE KINGDOM.
リズ COMPANY PRESIDENT, BORITUS ウ・ス

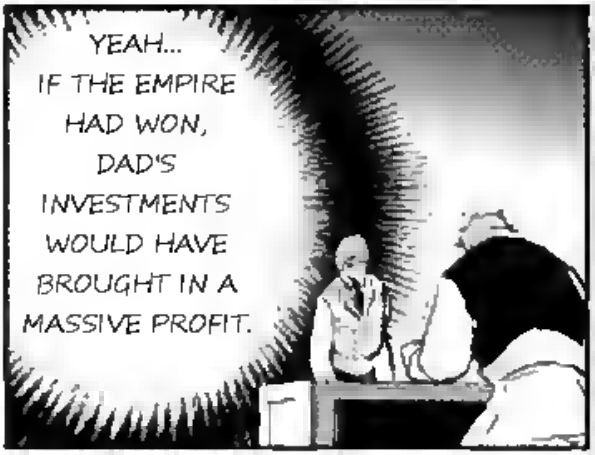
THE EMPIRE LOST.


DAD,

I KNOW THAT ALREADY!
OUR COMPANY IS UNABLE TO DO ANYTHING AT THIS POINT.
FOLLOWING THE EMPIRE'S EASTWARD MARCH, THE COMPANY SAW GREAT PROFITS, BUT THE EMPIRE'S DEFEAT ALSO HAD A GREAT EFFECT ON THEM.
HIS SON HIRSCHEF

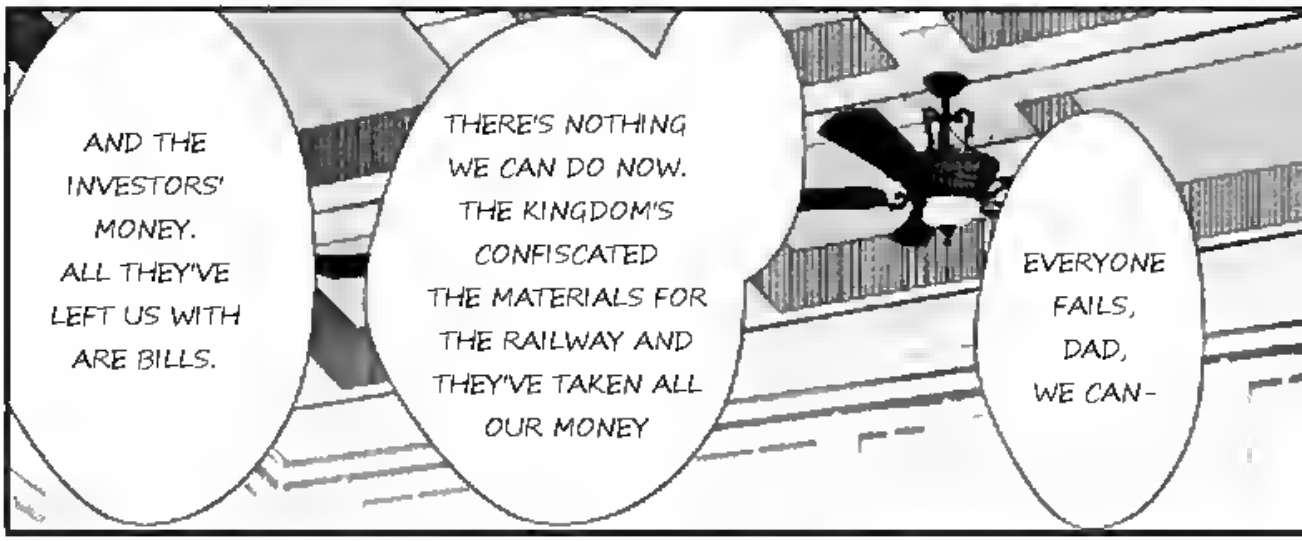
ASSUMING THE EMPIRE WAS GUARANTEED TO WIN, THE COMPANY HAD MADE A LARGE INVESTMENT.
I KNOW!

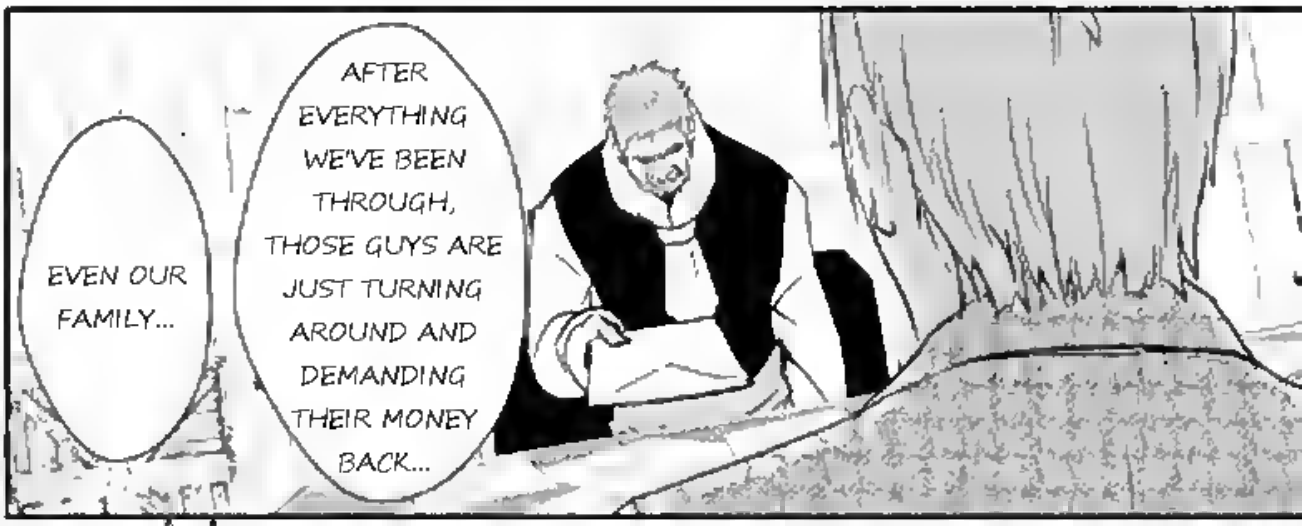
THEY HAD BROUGHT IN LOTS OF SUPPLIES FOR MAINTAINING THE RAILROAD LEADING TO WILMAGS AND BRIBED GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO OBTAIN A MONOPOLY.
HOW MUCH MONEY DO YOU THINK WE SPENT?!


YEAH... IF THE EMPIRE HAD WON, DAD'S INVESTMENTS WOULD HAVE BROUGHT IN A MASSIVE PROFIT.

BUT IN REALITY, HE LOST THIS BET.
DAD...

IF ONLY THAT STUPID GLORIE HAD BEATEN THE KINGDOM'S YOUNGSTER...


AND THE INVESTORS' MONEY. ALL THEY'VE LEFT US WITH ARE BILLS.
THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO NOW. THE KINGDOM'S CONFISCATED THE MATERIALS FOR THE RAILWAY AND THEY'VE TAKEN ALL OUR MONEY
EVERYONE FAILS, DAD, WE CAN-


EVEN OUR FAMILY...
AFTER EVERYTHING WE'VE BEEN THROUGH, THOSE GUYS ARE JUST TURNING AROUND AND DEMANDING THEIR MONEY BACK...

DAMN IT! IN THE END EVERYONE JUST BETRAYS US!

EVEN UNCLE?

MOM RETURNED TO HER HOME NOT LONG AGO...
WHILE I DO HATE THE KINGDOM,
AS STOUT-HEARTED AS MOM WAS, SHE JUST COULDN'T TAKE IT.
AND WOULD CONSTANTLY FOOL AROUND WITH MISTRESSES.
DAD WAS ALWAYS AMBI-TIOUS
YOU'RE JUST REAPING WHAT YOU SOWED.

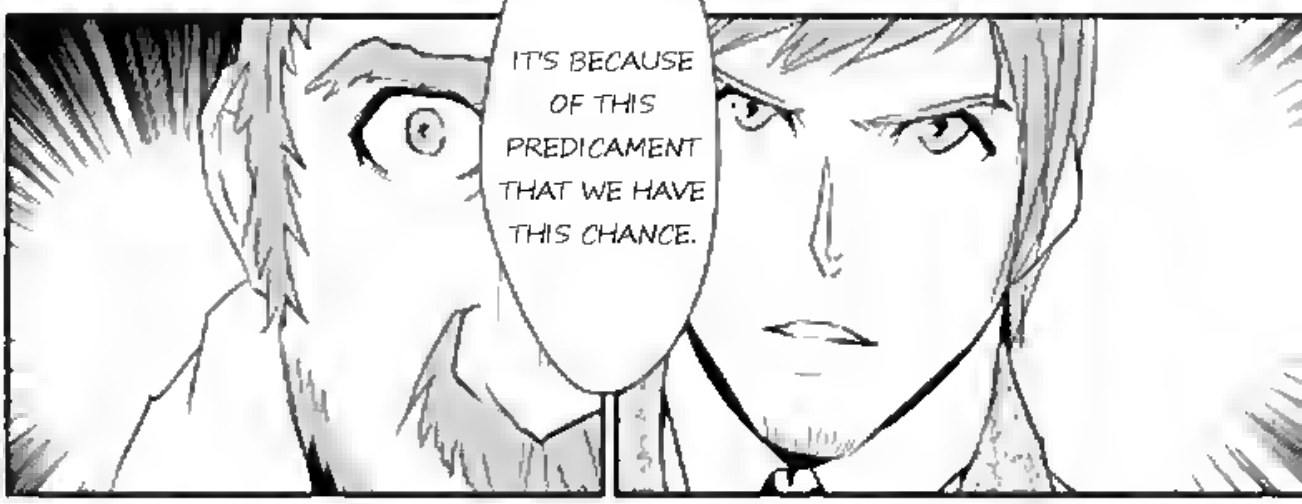
DAD,
I HAVE AN IDEA.
?

LET'S EXPAND INTO THE KINGDOM.

WILMAGS
PARATEON FORTRESS
VARMITT
I'VE HEARD THAT THE KING HAS ESTABLISHED A BUSINESS HERE DUE TO IT BEING HIS FIEF.
HIS HIGHNESS DITORIA'S REALM NOW BORDERS THE KINGDOM, SO IF WE HELP BOOST THEIR ECONOMY, THEY'LL PROBABLY STAND BEHIND US...
WE CAN DEAL WITH THE KINGDOM AS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EMPIRE, WHILE DEALING WITH THE EMPIRE AS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE KINGDOM.

BUT... THERE'S A CHANCE THAT WE MIGHT MAKE ENEMIES OF BOTH COUNTRIES...
THAT'S TRUE, WE JUST NEED THE KINGDOM TO NEGOTIATE WITH US...

BUT IF WE DO NOTHING, IT'S DEFINITELY THE END OF US.


IT'S BECAUSE OF THIS PREDICAMENT THAT WE HAVE THIS CHANCE.

I'VE ALWAYS FELT, MY SON WAS GREAT, AND I'M NOT JUST SAYING IT BECAUSE HE'S MY KID...も
親
ALRIGHT.

そ
THAT'S RIGHT...
I'VE GOTTEN THROUGH SEVERAL PERILOUS SITUATIONS BEFORE LIKE THIS, も
やっ
AND EVERY TIME I OBTAINED SOMETHING GREAT...
そし
得る
たときに

THIS WAGER ISN'T TOO BAD. I'LL LEAVE MY LIFE IN YOUR HANDS THEN.
俺に商売をさせるとは…
FOR HIM TO MAKE ME WANT TO KEEP DOING BUSINESS...
I'LL LEAVE IT ALL TO YOU THEN.
DAD!
THE FUTURE OF THIS COMPANY DEPENDS ON YOU, MY SON.
自慢の息子よ…
I MAY HAVE DESIRED THE WRONG THINGS, MY DEAR SON...
父はまちがったようだ
HAHAHA!
I BETTER BRING THE FAMILY BACK TOGETHER!

ON HER WAY BACK TO THE CAPITAL AFTER THAT LOSS, GLORIE SPENT THE NIGHT AT AN INN ALONG THE ROUTE.
IS ANYONE THERE?
YES!
CAN YOU BRING ME SOME COLD WATER?
I'VE ONLY SEEN NIGHTMARES AFTER THAT BATTLE...
3 O'CLOCK...
4:44
4:44

I KEPT ON LOSING.
THE KINGDOM'S TROOPS PURSUED US PERFECTLY AND KEPT INTERCEPTING US, TARGETING MY ELITE SOLDIERS.
THE SOLDIERS I HAD TRAINED...

THE SOLDIERS I HAD BROUGHT UP.
THE GREAT SOLDIERS THAT LOOKED UP TO ME.

WELL DONE... LECTIVAL...
I'VE BROUGHT YOU YOUR WATER.

THE KING'S SWORD IS SAID TO BE CAPABLE OF DESTROYING CIVILIZATION,
DAMN IT.
I FEEL LIKE I'LL GO MAD FROM MY OWN WORTHLESS-NESS.
AND I WAS CONCEITED ENOUGH TO WANT TO FACE IT....
I WAS A FOOL TO THINK I COULD ACHIEVE ANYTHING...
GLORIE

GRAND-MOTHER...

ARE YOU UNABLE TO SLEEP?

YOU WERE AWAKE?

THE ELDERLY WAKE UP EARLY.

GRAND-
MOTHER,
I THOUGHT I
WAS JUST
MAKING
NECESSARY
SACRIFICES,
BUT ALL
I DID WAS
NEEDLESSLY
THROW AWAY
THOUSANDS
OF LIVES.
GLORIE...
GRAND-
MOTHER!

GRAND-MOTHER, LOOK!
I CAME TO MAKE YOU STRONG.
I CAN USE THIS SWORD NOW!
FOR US DRAGONOIDS,
BUT YOU ARE A PERSON BEFORE YOU ARE A DRAGONOID...
SURVIVING AS A CANDIDATE FOR THE THRONE OF THE EMPIRE THAT BELIEVES IN HUMAN SUPREMACY REQUIRES POWER.

PERHAPS I FAILED IN MY TRAINING...
GLORIE,
ADMITTING THAT YOU MADE A MISTAKE CAN BE HARD...

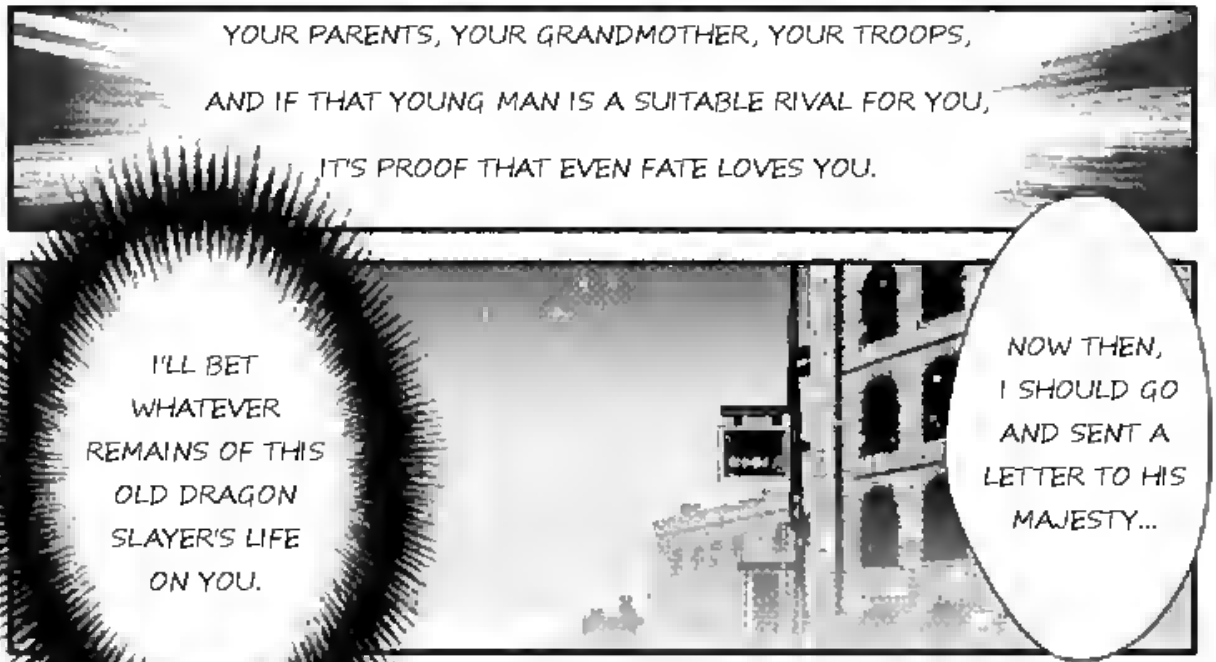
GH...
BUT YOU MUST LEARN FROM THOSE MISTAKES.

YOU MUST LEARN, GLORIE...
FROM MYSELF
AND THAT YOUNG MAN...
OKAY...

MY DEAR GLORIE...
UPON RETURNING, YOU'LL BE THROW INTO THE MIDDLE OF A STORM.
THE OTHER CANDIDATES WILL PROBABLY TRY TO USE YOUR FAILURE AS AN EXCUSE TO STRIP YOU OF YOUR STATUS.

DON'T WORRY,

YOU ARE LOVED BY MANY...


YOUR PARENTS, YOUR GRANDMOTHER, YOUR TROOPS,
AND IF THAT YOUNG MAN IS A SUITABLE RIVAL FOR YOU,
IT'S PROOF THAT EVEN FATE LOVES YOU.
I'LL BET WHATEVER REMAINS OF THIS OLD DRAGON SLAYER'S LIFE ON YOU.
NOW THEN, I SHOULD GO AND SENT A LETTER TO HIS MAJESTY...